



Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 1/7/16

PRESENT

Members: Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Ellen Callaway, Susan Stamps, Larry Slotnick

Residents: Yingzi Yang, Paul Goldberg, Rebecca Sacks, Pete Howard

MINUTES of 12/3/15 approved as corrected.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: No report. Coordinator on vacation.

TRASH BARREL LIMIT LETTER: Juli provided a draft letter to the DPW Director (Ref 1). Gordon explained the purpose of our recommendation is to take a concrete step to reduce trash tonnage and increase recycling by lowering the limit on trash allowed per household. During discussion a few changes were suggested. Juli will check with Charlotte on the number of gallons equivalent to 2 barrels. She will redraft & circulate the letter.

COMPOSTING PILOT: Gordon's article was printed in the Advocate. Susan to post an article on the A-List based on Gordon's article. Questions about recycling should be referred to Charlotte.

BUSINESS RECYCLING: Susan confirmed that the survey to haulers was distributed by the Health Dept as promised. She will retrieve the returns. Juli provided a revised copy of the 2nd business survey (Ref 2). Several changes were suggested. She will redraft & circulate. Yingzi will update the online version. She plans to take the survey to the Chamber of Commerce board meeting this month & ask them to circulate it.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL: Juli has not yet discussed w/ Town Counsel. The purpose of the associate membership is to develop a group of residents knowledgeable about ARC matters who would be able to fill open membership positions.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES: We discussed several old ideas and proposed some new ones, including creating a Facebook page, circulating our existing articles (on the Town's Recycling page) again by re-posting on YourArlington and Facebook, and creating a new weekly or monthly feature in the Advocate with short questions and answers on recycling topics. Facebook will also be an excellent place to post recycling tips.

Advocate Articles

Paul to make a list of questions

Possible articles

Possible brief post on FaceBook (Recycle Tip)

Larry: "See something, Say something" Delete

Erika: "Life Cycle Issues" Delete

Desirable to have a regular slot for these articles

We need to finalize a name: Recycling Corner or Recycling Tips were proposed

FaceBook

Rebecca (assisted as needed by Yingzi) will try to set up a page for us

Juli will make the formal request under the Town Communication Policy for permission

Publicize archive of recycling articles

Mounting Recycled Beauty pictures in Town Hall Lobby:

Ellen agreed to support this.

Juli to schedule time, if possible, during Town Meeting.

RECYCLING INITIATIVES suggested at previous meetings (Not discussed.)

Bulky waste

ACMI Recycling Series

Plastic bag restrictions locally
Divert mattresses from waste stream

NEXT MEETING 2/4/16 - Meetings held 1st Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in Town Hall Annex 1st Floor

Ref 1 Draft Letter to DPW Director
Ref 2 Arlington Business Recycles

DRAFT

Michael Rademacher
Department of Public Works

Dear Mike,

Arlington's Recycling Committee bylaw specifies, in part, that we shall "advise the Town of opportunities to improve and expand recycling in Town". Which we have interpreted to include advising the Town on various opportunities which would also reduce solid waste disposal costs.

After significant internal discussion, the Arlington Recycling Committee writes to recommend that the Town modify the guidelines for residential trash collection; by reducing the weekly solid waste limitation from 100 gallons to 67 gallons.

Why this recommendation and why now:

1 - Annual trash tonnage has been steady over the past three years and we believe that without taking a concrete step to reduce residential trash now; that tonnage is unlikely to decrease further.

2 - The 2014 Annual Vision 2020 Town Survey was completed by 34% of households, with the responses indicating that very few households would be affected by a reduction in the trash limit from the current 'three barrels' per week to our proposed level of 'two barrels' per week.

3 - Specifically, in the survey residents were requested to provide the number of people residing in their household and to provide an estimate of how many barrels of trash they put out each week.

From the survey the following facts were clear:

92% of households responding use 1 or 2 barrels
6% of households responding have 5 or more members
1% of households responding have 5+ members and use 3+ barrels

Accordingly, it is our belief that the current 100-gallon limit does not challenge households to actively recycle as many materials as is possible via the Town's existing weekly recycling program.

Further, as you know, the Town provides information to residents regarding a variety of alternate disposal and/or recycling methodologies for many items that currently are placed in the trash.

Including the successful monthly recycling center, which provides residents with yet another approach to recycling and diverting additional items from the regular solid waste stream.

Further, in these matters, we believe the Town needs to consider how hard many conscientious households work on a regular basis to recycle as many items as possible, both curbside and by using the other diversion methodologies we and the town promote and provide on a regular basis.

And while it is clear that we were not charged by Town Meeting through the bylaw creating the Committee to evaluate the popularity of any recommendations that we might make regarding trash and recycling; we recognize a reduction in the trash limit while supported by many, could prove frustrating to some residents.

Yet, since the Town does pay by the ton to incinerate our solid waste, we believe it would be sound financial and environmental (Green Community) policy for Arlington to continue to make steady progress to both reduce our trash tonnage and increasing our recycling rate.

And have therefore concluded that making this modest change at this point will have the greatest financial and environmental impact, while having only limited impact on families living their busy day-to-day lives. As well as serving to increase public awareness of the importance of these issues and encourage more household to continue to explore fully the various recycling options available.

Respectfully yours,

cc: Adam Chapdelaine

Town of Arlington - Arlington Business Recycles

We would like to understand how Arlington businesses manage their trash and recycling. Please take a moment to fill out this short questionnaire.

Do you participate in the Town of Arlington Commercial Trash program?

- Yes
- No, I use a private hauler

If you checked yes, you have completed this questionnaire. Please scroll to the bottom and click "Submit." Thank you!

If you checked no, please answer the following questions:

1. Which category best describes your business or industry?

- Restaurant
- Retail store
- Professional services
- Other _____

2. Who is your trash hauler?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bay State Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Northside Carting
<input type="checkbox"/> B-P Trucking	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse Disposal
<input type="checkbox"/> E. L. Harvey & Sons	<input type="checkbox"/> Republic Services
<input type="checkbox"/> EZ Disposal Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Grease Trappers Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wind River Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/> JRM	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellesley Trucking
<input type="checkbox"/> Miller Waste Industries	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

3. How does your hauler pick up your trash?

- Curbside
- Dumpster

4. Does your trash hauler provide recycling services?

- Yes, and I am not charged extra for recycling services
- Yes, but I pay extra for recycling services
- No, but I have separate recycling service _____
- We don't recycle

5. What do you recycle (check all that apply)

- Cardboard
- Glass bottles
- Cans
- Plastic bottles or containers
- Newspaper
- Office Paper
- We do not recycle
- Other _____

6. Check off the statements that best describe the problems your business faces when looking at recycling. (check all that apply)

- It costs too much money
- We don't have space inside to collect recycling
- We don't have room for a second dumpster for recycling
- It takes too much time to separate recycling from trash
- I don't know what to recycle
- We need posters about sorting or training for staff

Please share any other thoughts you have: _____.

7. Would you be interested in attending a free session by Recycling Works, a company that offers support to businesses who are starting recycling programs?

- Yes
- No

If you are a Restaurant, please answer the following questions:

8. Do you have a service that picks up your organic waste for composting?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is the name of your organics collection service? _____

9. Do you have a service that picks up your fats, oils or grease?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is the name of the service that picks up your fats, oils or grease? _____

Business Contact Information

Before you click "Submit" below, please tell us a little about your business. We would like to use this information to better understand how different types of businesses manage their trash and recycling, and if some businesses have greater difficulty recycling due to their location. We hope to use this information to develop strategies to help Arlington businesses recycle more, but this step is optional.

Business Name * _____

Business Address * _____

Contact Name/Title _____

Contact Telephone Number _____

Contact Email _____

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire!

Don't forget to click "Submit" so your information is saved.